

99 High Frequency Words for GRE

In this sheet, you will find 99 very high frequency words explained through usage in example sentences. If you like this style of learning vocabulary, please visit verbalHQ.com for its full version.

1. Ambiguous:

Because the exam question was **ambiguous** [= unclear / open to interpretation / not specific], students wasted time debating what it actually meant.

2. Pragmatic:

She wanted a dream wedding, but her fiancé suggested a **pragmatic** [= practical / realistic / focused on results] plan that fit their budget.

3. Substantiate:

The witness's vague story could not **substantiate** [= prove true / back up / provide evidence for] the claims, even though it sounded convincing at first.

4. Contentious:

Although the meeting began calmly, the issue of salaries soon turned **contentious** [= hotly disputed / likely to provoke conflict / causing arguments] and divided the staff.

5. Erudite:

The audience listened closely as the **erudite** [= deeply learned / highly educated / showing great knowledge] historian explained links between ancient myths and modern science.

6. Disparate:

Even though they were twins, their interests were so **disparate** [= completely different / sharply distinct / contrasting] that one became a musician while the other pursued engineering.

7. Tenuous:

His explanation sounded **tenuous** [= very weak / lacking strength / uncertain], since it relied on rumours rather than actual facts.

8. Ubiquitous:

Because of social media, selfies have become **ubiquitous** [= found everywhere / widespread / present all around], appearing on every platform you open.

9. Capricious:

The director's **capricious** [= unpredictable / subject to sudden change / fickle] decisions frustrated the actors, who never knew what role they would play next.

10. Venerate:

Although he lived centuries ago, people still **venerate** [= honor greatly / show deep respect / revere] the poet by celebrating his birthday with public readings.

11. Ameliorate:

Since food shortages were growing severe, the government launched programs to **ameliorate** [= make better / improve / ease hardship] the situation in rural areas.

12. Precarious:

He balanced on the edge of the broken bridge, and his **precarious** [= dangerously unstable / unsafe / risky] position made everyone gasp.

13. Enumerate:

Because the topic was complex, the lawyer chose to **enumerate** [= list clearly / specify one by one / mention in order] the evidence rather than present it all at once.

14. Proliferate:

As internet access expanded, fake news sites began to **proliferate** [= increase rapidly / multiply quickly / spread widely], creating confusion among readers.

15. Eschew:

The monk chose to **eschew** [= deliberately give up / avoid using] material possessions, even though wealth was easily within his reach.

16. Corroborate:

Several witnesses came forward to **corroborate** [= provide confirming evidence / show to be true] the suspect's alibi, which had initially sounded doubtful.

17. Equivocal:

Her reply was so **equivocal** [= not clearly stated / open to different interpretations] that no one could tell whether she agreed or disagreed, even after repeated questioning.

18. Catalyst:

The protest became a **catalyst** [= event that triggers change / cause of rapid development] for political reform, since frustration had been building for years.

19. Mitigate:

Wearing seat belts helps to **mitigate** [= make less severe / reduce harmful effect] the force of collisions, even if accidents cannot always be prevented.

20. Dichotomy:

There is a clear **dichotomy** [= sharp division into two parts / contrast between opposites] between what politicians promise and what they deliver, because ideals rarely match reality.

21. Arduous:

Completing the marathon was an **arduous** [= very difficult / requiring great effort] task, though he had trained for months.

22. Candor:

She spoke with **candor** [= complete honesty / open expression], and the audience admired her even more because of her sincerity.

23. Prevalent:

Fast food chains are **prevalent** [= widely existing / commonly found] in most cities, though they remain rare in remote villages.

24. Admonish:

The teacher had to **admonish** [= warn firmly / scold gently] the children for whispering, even while the exam was in progress.

25. Archaic:

Some legal documents still contain **archaic** [= no longer in use / belonging to an earlier time] words, which ordinary people no longer understand.

26. Dogmatic:

He remained **dogmatic** [= stubbornly fixed in opinion / unwilling to consider other views] in his beliefs, even when colleagues presented strong evidence against them.

27. Bolster:

The coach's encouraging words helped to **bolster** [= provide extra support / strengthen confidence] the team's morale before the match, which had already been delayed twice.

28. Censure:

The official faced public **censure** [= strong formal criticism / expression of disapproval], although the mistake was not entirely his fault.

29. Partisan:

The news channel was accused of giving **partisan** [= showing unfair bias / favouring one side] coverage, even though it claimed to be neutral.

30. Parity:

The company fought for **parity** [= state of being equal / condition of fairness] in pay, though some managers resisted the change.

31. Comprehensive:

The report provided a **comprehensive** [= covering everything fully / complete in detail] analysis of the company's financial performance, which allowed investors to make informed decisions.

32. Indifferent:

She seemed **indifferent** [= showing no concern / lacking interest] to the outcome of the match, even while the rest of the crowd erupted in excitement.

33. Implicit:

There was an **implicit** [= understood without being stated / implied agreement] between them that loyalty mattered more than money.

34. Deference:

Out of **deference** [= respectful submission / regard for authority] to the elderly speaker, everyone remained silent until she finished.

35. Orthodox:

He followed an **orthodox** [= following long-established rules / traditional in practice] approach to teaching, though students often asked for more modern methods.

36. Incongruous:

Her cheerful laughter sounded **incongruous** [= out of place / not fitting the situation] at the funeral service.

37. Propensity:

He had a **propensity** [= natural tendency / strong inclination] to get nervous before public speaking events, even when well prepared.

38. Reciprocal:

Their friendship was built on **reciprocal** [= mutually given / shared equally] trust and respect, which made it long-lasting.

39. Alleviate:

Medicine helped to **alleviate** [= make less severe / reduce intensity of] the patient's chronic pain, though it did not cure the illness.

40. Aberrant:

The scientist noticed an **aberrant** [= deviating from normal / unusual and irregular] pattern in the experiment's results, which required further investigation.

41. Predilection:

She had a **predilection** [= strong liking / natural preference] for mystery novels, even when other genres were more popular.

42. Meticulous:

The artist was **meticulous** [= extremely careful / paying close attention to detail] in painting each tiny feature of the portrait.

43. Skeptical:

He was **skeptical** [= doubtful of truth / questioning validity] of the company's claim that their product could cure all diseases.

44. Repudiate:

The politician tried to **repudiate** [= strongly reject / refuse to accept as true] the accusations made against him, though the evidence was clear.

45. Vacillate:

She continued to **vacillate** [= waver between choices / be indecisive] between studying law and pursuing a career in writing, even as deadlines approached.

46. Plausible:

The detective found his explanation **plausible** [= appearing believable / seeming reasonable], even though she insisted on more proof before closing the case.

47. Gregarious:

He was so **gregarious** [= fond of company / highly sociable] that within a week at his new job, he had more friends than most long-time employees.

48. Magnanimous:

Although defeat was disappointing, the player remained **magnanimous** [=

generous in spirit / forgiving toward rivals] and congratulated his opponent warmly.

49. Lucid:

Her lecture was remarkably **lucid** [= **clearly expressed / easy to follow**], even though the subject itself was notoriously difficult.

50. Inert:

The gas remained **inert** [= **not reactive / without movement**], while other chemicals in the experiment reacted violently.

51. Opaque:

The legal document was **opaque** [= **difficult to understand / lacking clarity**], which frustrated even the experienced lawyers reviewing it.

52. Tacit:

There was a **tacit** [= **silently understood / implied without words**] agreement between them, though neither ever spoke of it openly.

53. Pejorative:

The critic's review was filled with **pejorative** [= **expressing disapproval / carrying insulting meaning**] remarks, even though the book was popular among readers.

54. Ephemeral:

The beauty of a rainbow is **ephemeral** [= **lasting a very short time / quickly disappearing**], because it vanishes almost as soon as the sunlight shifts.

55. Inconsequential:

His error proved **inconsequential** [= **too minor to matter / lacking real importance**], though he worried about it for days.

56. Mundane:

She found the filing work **mundane** [= **ordinary and dull / lacking excitement**], even though it was essential to keep the office running.

57. Nuance:

The actor captured every **nuance** [= subtle difference / small distinction] of emotion, which made the performance feel strikingly authentic.

58. Insipid:

The soup tasted **insipid** [= lacking flavour / dull in taste], though it had been prepared with expensive ingredients.

59. Meager:

The family survived on a **meager** [= very small in amount / barely sufficient] income, while wealthier relatives lived comfortably.

60. Reverent:

The audience sat in **reverent** [= showing deep respect / filled with admiration] silence, as the monk's words carried profound weight.

61. Supercilious:

His **supercilious** [= arrogantly superior / condescending in attitude] tone unsettled the meeting, even though he claimed to be respectful.

62. Diminish:

Over time, his fear of public speaking began to **diminish** [= gradually decrease / become less strong], as practice made him more confident.

63. Lethargic:

She felt **lethargic** [= lacking energy / unusually sluggish] after the long journey, though she had slept on the train.

64. Spurious:

The court dismissed his **spurious** [= false in nature / lacking validity] arguments, since no evidence supported them.

65. Intrepid:

The **intrepid** [= **fearless in danger / adventurous in spirit**] explorer set out to climb the uncharted mountain, though many warned him against it.

66. Tangential:

The professor's lecture became **tangential** [= **only slightly related / going off-topic**], as he drifted into a story that had little to do with the subject.

67. Austere:

The monk lived in an **austere** [= **extremely simple / without luxury**] room, while others in the monastery kept modest comforts.

68. Tractable:

The problem turned out to be **tractable** [= **easy to control / manageable with effort**], even though the engineers had first feared the worst.

69. Perfunctory:

He gave a **perfunctory** [= **done without real effort / mechanical in manner**] nod, though the discussion deserved genuine attention.

70. Candid:

She was refreshingly **candid** [= **openly truthful / straightforward in speech**] about the difficulties she faced, which earned her respect.

71. Impetuous:

He leapt into the deal without thinking, and his **impetuous** [= **acting too hastily / reckless in judgment**] choice nearly bankrupted the firm.

72. Sagacious:

Her **sagacious** [= **showing wise judgment / perceptive in thought**] advice steered the team through the crisis, while other leaders froze under pressure.

73. Reticent:

She remained **reticent** [= not revealing thoughts easily / inclined to stay silent], even though she understood the issue perfectly.

74. Fortuitous:

Their **fortuitous** [= happening by chance / producing lucky results] encounter on the train led to a partnership that neither had expected.

75. Languid:

He stirred his tea slowly, his movements **languid** [= lacking vitality / weak from fatigue] after the exhausting journey.

76. Circumspect:

The opportunity looked golden, yet he remained **circumspect** [= cautious in judgment / careful to avoid risk], unwilling to gamble his savings.

77. Placate:

The argument grew heated, so she tried to **placate** [= calm someone's anger / bring peace to a conflict] her friend with a sincere apology.

78. Indomitable:

Setbacks came one after another, yet her **indomitable** [= impossible to defeat / unyielding in spirit] will refused to break.

79. Sanguine:

His grades had slipped badly, but he stayed **sanguine** [= cheerfully optimistic / confident about the future] about passing the exam.

80. Vindicate:

Rumours painted him guilty, but the new evidence served to **vindicate** [= clear from blame / prove justified] his reputation.

81. Turbulent:

The meeting began orderly, then dissolved into a **turbulent [= full of disorder / violently unsettled]** shouting match.

82. Scrupulous:

He was slow to finish the report because his **scrupulous [= extremely careful / strictly attentive to detail]** checks left no error untouched.

83. Frugal:

Their house was modest and their habits plain, for a **frugal [= using resources sparingly / avoiding unnecessary spending]** life gave them steady comfort.

84. Vitriolic:

She smiled politely, yet her words were **vitriolic [= extremely bitter in tone / harshly critical]**, cutting deeper than open anger would have.

85. Torpid:

Hours of heat left him **torpid [= lacking energy / physically inactive]**, barely able to lift his head.

86. Conciliatory:

The strike threatened to spread, so management issued a **conciliatory [= intended to make peace / soothing hostility]** offer to calm tensions.

87. Querulous:

He had food, shelter, and company, yet his tone stayed **querulous [= habitually complaining / whining in manner]** throughout the evening.

88. Garrulous:

She asked a simple question, but the **garrulous [= excessively talkative / fond of rambling speech]** neighbour answered with a half-hour monologue.

89. Penurious:

The scholar lived in a **penurious** [= extremely poor / lacking basic resources] room, surviving on bread and tea.

90. Punctilious:

Every fork and spoon was in its exact place, for his **punctilious** [= showing precise attention / careful with small details] manner impressed the guests.

91. Phlegmatic:

The fire alarm rang loudly, yet his **phlegmatic** [= calmly unemotional / composed under pressure] manner never wavered.

92. Laconic:

Asked for his opinion, he gave a **laconic** [= using very few words / brief to the point of bluntness] "yes" and nothing more.

93. Sycophantic:

She frowned at his constant flattery, for the **sycophantic** [= excessively flattering / insincerely submissive] praise felt dishonest.

94. Truculent:

Tired of compromise, he grew **truculent** [= aggressively defiant / eager to fight], daring anyone to challenge him.

95. Grandiloquent:

His speech was long and **grandiloquent** [= pompously wordy / pretentiously showy], so the audience left more impressed by style than substance.

96. Effusive:

The applause was loud and the hugs endless, as her **effusive** [= overflowing with emotion / unrestrainedly expressive] gratitude filled the room.

97. Dilatory:

He saw the deadline coming but adopted a **dilatory** [= intended to delay / habitually slow to act] approach, finishing nothing on time.

98. Pusillanimous:

Danger loomed ahead, yet his **pusillanimous** [= lacking courage / excessively timid] retreat disappointed his friends.

99. Obstinate:

They offered him reason and reward, but he remained **obstinate** [= stubbornly refusing change / unyielding despite persuasion], holding firm to his decision.